

**UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
CITY HALL 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
JULY 26, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.**

Cumulative
January 2011-
December 2011

Committee Member	Attendance	Present	Absent
Bunney Brenneman, Chair	P	5	0
Robert Cole, Vice Chair	P	3	2
Maria Canady	A	3	2
L. Thomas Chancey	A	2	3
Deborah Fredericks	P	3	0
Donald Lampasone	A	1	2
Don Larson	P	5	0
Ruchel Louis	A	1	4
Terri Murru	A	1	4
Stephanie Toothaker	A	1	4
Jay Weiss	P	4	1
Dennis West	A	2	2

Staff

Hal Barnes, Engineering Design Manager
Robert Dunckel, Assistant City Attorney
Barbara Hartmann, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Guests

Lynn Shatas, FPL
Cal Deal, Guest

Communications to City Commission

None.

I. Call to Order

Chair Brenneman called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was not present.

**III. Introductions of New Members
Self-Introductions**

The Committee, Staff, and guests introduced themselves.

**IV. Administrative Re-Vote on Minutes Required
Minutes of February 22, 2011 Meeting
Minutes of June 28, 2011 Meeting**

As a quorum was not present, minutes could not be approved at this time.

V. Continuing Business
• **Update on AT&T Boxes, Windmills and Wind Turbines**

Mr. Barnes advised that these items continue to be discussed at the monthly utility coordinating meeting held by the Public Works Department. A memorandum sent to the City Commission on July 14 detailed some of the concerns regarding the AT&T boxes.

Chair Brenneman noted that 250 cloth^[BBI] windmills will be placed on a lot near the First Presbyterian Church. They are intended to serve as a reminder that there should be no drilling off the City's coast. Vice Chair Cole clarified that the windmills are 3 to 4 ft. in height and are not intended to generate electricity.

Attorney Dunckel said there have been additional cases before the Board of Adjustment, and noted that State law makes it difficult to disallow the devices. He recalled that one case was brought by an individual who wanted to build a 65 ft. windmill in a single-family neighborhood, which limits structures to 35 ft. in height. The application was denied, as the owner could not demonstrate that the device would be effective in lowering energy costs. A second case was also denied for the same reason.

Attorney Dunckel continued that the Hilton, which had appeared before the Committee earlier in the year, expected to receive some benefit from their proposed wind devices. After presenting to the City Commission, the Hilton had changed their plan to include six devices on the roof and eight at the 6th floor pool deck. Their application recently came before the Board of Adjustment. He explained that the Hilton had worked with neither the nearby homeowners' association nor the condominium association's board of directors with regard to the project, which resulted in the case being continued. It will be brought back in approximately 60 to 90 days. Attorney Dunckel recalled that a "minimal amount of electricity" would be generated by the devices.

Mr. Larson stated that his main contention with regard to wind devices was that the City has not "done enough homework" to be fully knowledgeable about what should be allowed. He expressed concern that multiple devices could ultimately be allowed on properties, which he said could be noisy, unsightly, and harmful to birds. Attorney Dunckel said the City Commission has asked Public Works and Planning and Zoning to develop regulations that would govern the use of wind devices.

Chair Brenneman commented that noise regulations would be difficult to apply in these cases. Attorney Dunckel added that the decibel levels of wind devices would be difficult to read due to nearby ambient noise.

Chair Brenneman asked Mr. Larson to provide her with contact information for a wind farm at Lake Okeechobee. She said she would make "a continuing effort" to keep apprised of this issue.

- **Update on Areas of Interest**

Chair Brenneman introduced Lynn Shatas, External Affairs Manager with Florida Power & Light (FPL).

Ms. Shatas reported that FPL's 10-year siting plan requires that they determine where a future demand of electricity will be located. As part of a commitment to clean energy, FPL has determined that it is in their best interest to modernize the Port Everglades power plant. This will not change the actual footprint of the plant, and there will be no need for additional transmission or water. FPL currently purchases water from Fort Lauderdale.

The plant will reduce its number of stacks from four to three, which will be at half the present height. It will be gas-fired and "absolutely clean." Ms. Shatas explained that FPL will appear before the Florida Public Service Commission to determine the need for modernization, as well as before the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Power Plant Siting Act. If they receive these approvals, all changes will be done on-site.

FPL anticipates that the stacks will be brought down in 2013. Construction will last from 2014 until the plant is fully operational again in 2016. The construction process will bring up to 650 jobs to the area, as well as other jobs throughout the community. She offered to provide more information for the Committee as the project moves through its different stages.

Ms. Shatas recalled that Chair Brenneman had also asked her to speak on wind power. She stated that FPL's parent company, Next Era, is the largest generator of wind and solar power within the U.S. and second-largest in the world. There are three solar power plants in Florida thus far, including a unique solar/gas

hybrid at the Martin Solar Facility in Martin County. This plant has 180,000 mirrors that produce solar energy when the sun is shining; when the sun is not shining, energy is generated through gas. There is also a solar facility in Desoto County and another on the Space Coast. The Public Service Commission allows FPL to grant rebates to homeowners and businesses if they install solar panels on roofs or photovoltaic systems. This has been a very popular program and will be offered again in August and October 2011.

Cal Deal, guest, requested more information on reduced air emissions from the modernized Port Everglades plant. Ms. Shatas said the existing plant is not run very often, as it is less efficient than newer plants; when it modernizes, it will produce energy at greater efficiency and less cost. At present, it is more economical for FPL to use other plants. She noted that Broward County has information on existing soot emissions, and advised she could provide this and more information to the Committee in the future.

Ms. Frederick expressed concern that FPL was preparing to make a large investment in a fossil fuel facility, which meant they were not fully preparing to change over into alternative forms of energy. Ms. Shatas said gas power is clean and cost-effective, and is very efficient when used in combination with solar power.

Ms. Shatas continued that at FPL's Cape Canaveral and Riviera plants, heaters will be installed during the construction phase to keep the water warm for manatees. She explained that manatees often congregate in the plants' discharge canals, where the water is warmer.

Mr. Weiss asked if natural gas pipeline will need to be laid at Port Everglades. Ms. Shatas said it is already on that site, as Port Everglades currently burns both gas and oil.

Vice Chair Cole asked if Ms. Shatas could provide an update on power outages on some isles. He noted that lines are underground in some of these locations, and said the outages had lasted for "at least one day." Ms. Shatas said she would look into this if an exact address for the outage area could be provided.

Chair Brenneman thanked Ms. Shatas for her presentation.

- **Other Continuing Business**

None.

VI. New Business
Cancellation of August 23, 2011 Meeting

Chair Brenneman explained that the City Commission will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 23. The UAC meeting will be cancelled so interested members may attend or watch the City Commission meeting.

VII. Good of the Committee

Mr. Barnes said he and Chair Brenneman share a concern regarding the Committee's inability to reach a quorum at recent meetings. He advised that standard policy for City Board or Committee members includes three key milestones that lead to automatic resignation:

- Missing three consecutive regular meetings;
- Missing four meetings within a single term;
- Missing one-third of regular meetings.

Mr. Barnes noted that at least three members will receive letters informing them of their automatic resignation after tonight's meeting. He thanked the members in attendance, and asked that they continue to respond to email requests that ask if they can attend. This informs the Chair and Mr. Barnes of whether or not a quorum will be in attendance so business may be conducted.

He concluded that either new members will be appointed to the Committee or former members will be reinstated.

Mr. Weiss asked if it would be possible to designate "common members" and "preferred members" so a smaller number of members would constitute a quorum. He expressed concern that the Committee might not have sufficient attendance to consistently reach a quorum.

Chair Brenneman said there is a precedent for action similar to this, which would have to be designated by the City Commission. She advised that there is an existing advisory body in the City with a "lower actual quorum." If a quorum is reached by the Committee at a future meeting, they may vote to request that the City Commission make a similar designation for the UAC.

She added that the City Commission receives copies of the Committee's minutes and is aware of the quorum issue; in addition, some Committee members regularly communicate with their appointing Commissioners and have made them aware of the situation. She suggested that this discussion could be an Agenda Item at the Committee's September meeting.

Mr. Barnes pointed out that the quorum is based upon the number of appointed Committee members rather than the number of seats on a given Committee. This prevents vacant seats from counting against a quorum.

Mr. Deal stated he had hoped for further information from AT&T regarding the boxes. Chair Brenneman said an AT&T representative was not able to attend tonight's meeting due to another commitment.

VIII. Communications to City Commission

None.

IX. Announcements
Tuesday, September 27, 2011, Next UAC Regular Meeting

X. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]